

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6, as follows:

The ~~present invention~~ technology described below relates to a method and a system for use in a so called Central Securities Depository, commonly abbreviated as CSD. ~~By means of the invention,~~ The technology facilitates the clearing and settlement of trades in such a system is ~~facilitated, and~~ standardizes ~~settlement can be standardised.~~

Please amend the heading beginning at page 1, line 11, as follows:

~~BACKGROUND-ART~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 11, as follows:

Today more than 150 CSD:s exist around the world. Globalisation has led to an increase in cross-border trading, as well as consolidation of securities markets and the underlying infrastructure such as CSD:s. This means that more and more CSD:s serve ~~not only~~ the securities and the participants of more than a single particular market.

Please amend the heading beginning at page 3, line 23, as follows:

~~SUMMARY-OF-THE-INVENTION~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 24, as follows:

There is thus a need for a method and a system by means of which trades can be settled within a CSD-system in an easier, ~~and more generalized,~~ and more flexible ~~manner than previously.~~ This need is addressed by the described ~~present invention in that it discloses a method and a system~~

for carrying out clearing and settlement in a Central Securities Depository[[,]]. ~~the~~ The clearing process ~~comprising~~ comprises:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 3, as follows:

- defining a settlement obligation group[[,]] ~~said group comprising~~ that comprises a number of settlement instructions that all have to be settled at the same time,

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 6, as follows:

- “locking in” of the assets which the transaction concern, the locking-in having the effect of reserving ~~said~~ the assets for a specific settlement instruction.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 10, as follows:

By adding the automatic functions of selecting a “settlement rule” , defining of “settlement obligation group”, and “~~lock in~~ locking-in of assets” to the clearing process, ~~as disclosed by the invention~~[[,]] ~~it has been~~ is possible to arrive at a simplified and generally applicable settlement process comprising:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16, as follows:

- automatically selecting transfer instructions for all settlement obligations belonging to said settlement obligation group, ~~said~~ the transfer instructions being irrevocable instructions to transfer (the locked-in) assets between participants in the CSD,

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 26, which starts with:

The invention will be described...

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 28, as follows:

Fig 1 ~~[[,]] in order to facilitate the understanding of the background of the invention,~~ shows some of the major functions in a CSD, ~~and~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1, as follows:

Fig 2 shows some of the major steps in the clearing process – these steps ~~leads~~ lead up to the point where everything is confirmed and ready to settle. The settlement process is then reduced to the act of issuing irrevocable transfer instructions and to checking that they are successfully executed, and

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6, as follows:

Fig 3 shows a flowchart ~~of some major steps in the invention.~~

Please amend the heading beginning at page 5, line 9, as follows:

~~EMBODIMENTS AND DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION:~~ DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 10, as follows:

Below there is a description of a simplified automated clearing and settlement routine ~~according to the method of the invention.~~ The routine makes it easier for a CSD to adapt to changing market requirements and include new types of securities and new types of settlement. At the

same time, the routine can be used for other CSD functions, such as collateral management and so called “corporate actions”, e.g., payments of dividend or interest.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 18, as follows:

In order to simplify and generalise the settlement process, a number of concepts are introduced for use by automatic sub-processes or functions ~~comprised in the invention~~ in the clearing of transactions to be settled:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 14, as follows:

- Lock-in of assets before settlement. ~~Where assets~~ Assets can be money or securities. The assets are reserved for the purpose of a specific settlement instruction.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 18, as follows:

- X versus Y: In the normal case, a settlement routine is required to settle securities trades: delivery of securities versus payment for the same securities. But there are other situations which are very similar, that could be handled by the same settlement routine ~~according to the invention~~:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 7, as follows:

In order to facilitate ~~the understanding of the invention~~, a brief description of some of the major functions in a ~~conventional~~ CSD will now be given. This description is given with reference to fig 12, in which a brief outline of a CSD system is shown, comprising the following automated functions:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 10, as follows:

Figure 2 is a simplified illustration of the clearing routine ~~according to the invention~~. Suitably, the steps are carried out in a computer or other such automated machine ~~means~~, with a minimum of intervention necessary by an operator of a CSD. However, ~~any a~~ a combination of automated and manual actions ~~which would comprise the steps of the invention are within the scope of the invention~~ may be used. In addition, fig 3 shows a ~~traditional~~ flow chart of the routine described below, the major steps of the routine being referenced with numbers in the flow chart, ~~said the~~ numbers being shown below in parentheses for ease of reading.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1, as follows:

It is possible to structure so called corporate actions (e.g. dividend payments) so that the above settlement engine ~~of the present invention~~ can be used. The same goes for a number of collateral management functions (e.g. change of collateral). This is important since systems maintenance becomes easier, and since all routines in a CSD that involve payments or transfer of ownership to securities have considerable audit and security requirements due to the large values handled by many CSDs.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 11, as follows:

The addition to the clearing process ~~of the concepts~~ of settlement rule, settlement obligation group, and lock-in of assets makes it possible to build a simplified settlement process with very wide applications for CSD settlement and related functions: